



THE NORTH JERSEY UNIT

National Association of Negro Business
and Professional Women's Clubs incorporated



46th Annual Founders' Day Brunch

Sunday, October 28, 2001
10:30A.M.

Newark Airport Marriott
Newark International Airport



North Jersey Unit Members

Officers

<i>President.....</i>	<i>Ada Banks</i>
<i>First Vice President.....</i>	<i>Sheltry Ward</i>
<i>Second Vice President.....</i>	<i>Delores Carter</i>
<i>Third Vice President.....</i>	<i>Wanda Payne</i>
<i>Corresponding Secretary.....</i>	<i>Audrey West</i>
<i>Assistant Corresponding Secretary.....</i>	<i>Larrie Stalks</i>
<i>Recording Secretary.....</i>	<i>Christine "Rot" Samuels</i>
<i>Assistant Recording Secretary.....</i>	<i>Marcene Anderson</i>
<i>Financial Secretary.....</i>	<i>Eleanor Crutchfield</i>
<i>Assistant Financial Secretary.....</i>	<i>Maldine Dowdy</i>
<i>Assistant Treasurer.....</i>	<i>Delores Tyson</i>
<i>Parliamentarian.....</i>	<i>Mary Singletary</i>
<i>Chaplain.....</i>	<i>Mary White</i>

Life Members

<i>Ada Banks</i>	<i>Ethel Moore Johnson</i>
<i>Dr. Rose Campbell</i>	<i>Harriet Johnson</i>
<i>Sally Carroll</i>	<i>Evelyn Morrison</i>
<i>Delores Carter</i>	<i>Mary E. Singletary</i>
<i>Eleanor Crutchfield</i>	<i>Larrie Stalks</i>
<i>Barbara Delancy</i>	<i>P. Delores Tyson</i>
<i>Callie Eason</i>	<i>Audrey West</i>
<i>Ida Fragene</i>	<i>Janet C. White</i>

Members

<i>Carla Anderson</i>	<i>Mary M. Ford</i>	<i>Wanda Payne</i>
<i>Marcene Anderson</i>	<i>Carolyn Franklin</i>	<i>C. Yvonne Phipps</i>
<i>Dr. Jenny Brown</i>	<i>Josephine Harris</i>	<i>Lois Richardson</i>
<i>Shirley Brydie</i>	<i>Eunice Harrison</i>	<i>C. Rozlyn Samuels</i>
<i>Roslyn Carter</i>	<i>Janice Jackson</i>	<i>Cassandra Savoy</i>
<i>Darlene Cox</i>	<i>Naomi Jackson</i>	<i>Florence Starks</i>
<i>Donna H. Davis</i>	<i>Louise James</i>	<i>Quilla Talmadge</i>
<i>Yvonne Davis</i>	<i>Odessa James</i>	<i>Sheltry Ward</i>
<i>Maldine Dowdy</i>	<i>Helen Johnson</i>	<i>Bessie White</i>
<i>Gertrude Edwards</i>	<i>Hattie Law</i>	<i>Mary White</i>
<i>Cynthia Felton</i>	<i>Crystal Miller</i>	<i>Bettie Williams</i>
	<i>Michele Murchinson</i>	



The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

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TELEPHONE: (202) 462-4700

FAX: 202-462-7253

October 28, 2001

Greetings:

Congratulations to The North Jersey Unit Club of The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. as you host your *46th Founders' Day Brunch* at the Newark Marriott Airport Hotel in New Jersey.

It is a pleasure to recognize your loyalty, dedication and many contributions to the community as well as to our Association. I commend you for your continuous interest in providing public recognition and visibility to the many young, talented and gifted students as well as honoring your civic, business and community leaders.

Special congratulations to The North Jersey Unit Club President, Officers, and Planning Committee for orchestrating what I am confident will be a most rewarding Founders' Day Brunch.

Sisterly,

Cleopatra Vaughns
National President





Northeast District

The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

Web Site: <http://www.nanbpuw-net.org>

Yvonne Harris Jones
Governor

October 28, 2001



Joanne E. Braxton
Vice Governor

Dear President Ada Banks and North Jersey Unit Members:

Claretha L. Smith
Recording Secretary

The officers and members of the Northeast District of The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. join me in congratulating you on the North Jersey Unit's Forty-Sixth Annual Founders' Day Brunch.

Ida W. Epps
Financial Secretary

Our Association's mission, to promote the interests of African-American business and professional women and improve the quality of life in our communities, is as important today as it was when our organization was founded in 1935. The North Jersey Unit's work and involvement in addressing the needs of residents of Northern New Jersey continues the legacy of our founders and provides a model for others to follow.

Shirley A. Booker
Treasurer

Diane E. Toppin
Youth Leader

We also congratulate today's honorees on their accomplishments, and hope they will continue their efforts in the areas of professional excellence and serving others.

Shawna N. Lee
Youth Secretary

Annie Lucas
Corresponding Secretary

Sisterly,

Dorothea Lee
Parliamentarian

Yvonne Harris Jones
Northeast District Governor

Betty C. Dixon
Chaplain

"Leadership By Example"



Greetings From The President Ada Banks



Welcome to our Forty-sixth Annual Founder' Day Brunch. It is my pleasure to extend greetings, and a sincere welcome on behalf of the members of the North Jersey Unit, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Incorporated, as we recognize our honorees.

We salute all of our outstanding community leaders for their achievements, and commend them for improving the quality of life in our communities.

We thank each one of you for your continued support.

A special Thank You to the Forty-sixth Annual Founders' Day Brunch Committee, and BPW Club Sisters, for your untiring efforts to make this day a success.

To all of our awardees, CONGRATULATIONS, and continued success in all of your future endeavors.

*Yours truly,
Ada Banks, President*

*The North Jersey Unit of the National Association of Negro
Business and Professional women's Clubs, Incorporated*



DONALD M. PAYNE
10TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD,
YOUTH AND FAMILIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE
RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA

PAWING HERRBERT

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3010

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NEWARK, NJ 07102
(973) 645-3213

332 NORTH BROAD STREET
ELIZABETH, NJ 07208
(908) 629-0222

October 16, 2001

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to send my best wishes to the Negro Business and Professional Women's Organization as you gather for the 2001 Founders' Day Brunch.

The theme of this year's event, *Reaffirming Our Commitment of Vision for the New Millennium*, reflects your continued leadership in enhancing professional opportunities for African American women as you build on the remarkable success your organization has achieved over the years.

Let me congratulate this year's honorees for the outstanding work that you are doing in the community. Through your accomplishments, you are serving as excellent role models for the next generation of young achievers.

Please let me know whenever there is any way that I might be of assistance to your organization as you continue to carry out your important mission.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress



Sojourner Truth Award

Mary Palmer Smith



If there is a single thread to Mary Smith's dynamic personality, it is the intrinsic, indomitable dignity that fuels her commitment to the community. Her exceptional career began quietly among the bustling family-owned businesses of downtown Newark, New Jersey. Witnessing the efforts of all people working together—black, white, rich and poor, —instilled in her the need to promote community cooperation to create vibrant neighborhoods. It was a lesson well learned.

Mary Palmer Smith, Founder and Executive Director of Babyland Family Services, Inc. received a BS degree from Rutgers University — Livingston College with a major in sociology, and an MA from Kean College in Early Childhood Education. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate degree from Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey and Drew University in Madison, New Jersey.

Moving to Newark's Scudder Homes (the state's largest public housing project) as a young wife and mother of four children living on the eleventh floor, awakened in Mary Smith a sleeping giant that has not rested since. Galvanized to address deficiencies in services to tenants living in the high-rise apartments, she spearheaded grass-roots efforts that eventually caught the attention of politicians such as State Senator Tom Kean, who later became Governor of New Jersey.

Mary Smith broadened her scope of social intervention with her foray into child care services. Her commitment to children, families and community resulted in her opening Babyland Family Services, Inc. thirty-three years ago. Today Babyland Family Services, Inc. (formerly known as Babyland Nursery) serves 1,300 children and families and is a thriving agency with eleven facilities, including seven child care centers, and two 24 hour child and family shelters. Babyland assures working parents that their children are well cared for in a nurturing and stimulating environment. Ms. Smith has led Babyland to reach new heights of success and achievements. She is a visionary in forging and promoting community partnerships and collaboration to develop far-reaching initiatives that promote child and family development. Babyland will enhance its early childhood curriculum and pursue for national accreditation by launching creative outlets that will further stimulate children's growth and talents. Its creative programs strive to provide models of excellence in child and family development.

A Paul Harris Fellow, for her contributions to society, the media has recorded Mary's numerous accolades, from her involvement in the Civil Rights movement to New Jersey's "Unsung Heroine Award." The "Pro Edicta et Pontifice Award" that was bestowed upon her by Pope John Paul II, remains closest to her heart. Known as the Mother of their Village," the highest award that the Catholic Church gives to a lay person. This marked the first time that an African American woman had ever been the recipient of this award. She attended the "Faces of Hope" Inaugural Gala Celebration for President Bill Clinton. In 1996 Mrs. Smith was presented with the Phenomenal Woman Award by the Honorable Gayle Chaneyfeld-Jenkins Councilwoman-at-Large with the City of Newark. She later received the Ann Klein Award for dedicated and forceful service a community activist advocating for the delivery of quality service to the elderly population of Newark's Central Ward. In addition, for her outstanding humanitarian contributions to her community, she received the Paul Harris Fellow-Award from the Rotary Club of Newark.

Mrs. Smith served as a trustee of the University of Medicine and Dentistry and an Advisory Board Member of the Newark Public Schools. She is a member of the New Jersey Human Services Advisory Board and facilitated the development of New Jersey's Standards for Group Day Care for Infants. She has served on many other boards. Her awards include: Kean College-Outstanding Graduate; New Jersey Pride Award, 1989. She has demonstrated leadership in championing causes that benefit children and families throughout these years.



Man Of The Year

Calvin D. West

Calvin D. West, is a native of the City of Newark, was educated in the Newark Public School System Bloomfield college and Cooper Union College. After Serving in several key administrative positions with the City, State, and Federal Governments in 1966, Calvin distinguished himself by being elected the first of the Black race to serve the governing body of the City of Newark as a Councilman-At-Large. During his tenure in office, Councilman West served with great distinction, exhibited veracity, and stood in the forefront on issues and policies that responded to the vital need of the residents of the City of Newark.



In 1986, Mayor Sharp James appointed Calvin as his Personal aide. "West who has served thirteen years in my office, has demonstrated tireless dedication to his duties and performs them with sensitivity and professionalism," said the Mayor. "He is my legislative liaison in Trenton and also oversees the Newark Housing Authority, City Council, Police Department, United Community Corporation, Mayor's Affirmative action Commission and the Mayor's Youth Commission. Calvin is also my former Vice President of the 100 Black Men of New Jersey."

On March 20, 1984 the Newark Municipal Council issued a resolution to Calvin D. West, commending him as a shining example of the pioneer spirit essential to the enhancement of the Black political process and growth of Urban communities.

Calvin is married to Audrey West. they reside in Newark, New Jersey.



Professional Woman of the Year

Wanda Payne



Wanda Payne's interest in children and education commenced at a very young age. According to her father, Congressman Donald M. Payne, she wrote a proposal for a day care center at the early age of twelve. This interest persisted throughout the years and when it came time to enter college, Ms. Payne selected early childhood and primary education as her major. In 1983 she received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Kean University in Union, New Jersey in this area.

Since that time Ms. Payne has taught in a variety of early childhood settings. for the past sixteen years Ms. Payne has been a kindergarten teacher at Camden Street Elementary School for the Newark Public Schools. In this capacity, she has participated extensively in parent functions, special projects, and served as senior advisor for Camden Street School's PTA. Her dedication and hard work in this area resulted in the receipt of an appreciation award "Outstanding Involvement" from the PTA of the Newark Public Schools. Ms. Payne is a member of NJEA, the National Association of Kindergarten Educators, Newark Literary Association and the "Just Us" Book Club. In her role as Assistant Coordinator of the Fresh Air Fund for eighteen years, she helps afford needy children the opportunity to attend camp during the summer months.

In addition to her educational affiliations, Ms. Payne has participated on a variety of political committees. She has served as President of Young Democrats and is currently South Ward District Leader. As advisor the Model United Nations Programs and Youth Governments Programs, Ms. Payne continues to demonstrate her strong interest in young people. Her membership in the National Black Congress of Women and the North Jersey Unit, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Incorporated, as Third Vice President, epitomizes her commitment to the advancement of women while her lifelong membership in the NAACP reflects her devotion to her ethnic background.

In her spare time Ms. Payne enjoys bowling and traveling extensively. She is an accomplished swimmer and an avid reader. Ms. Payne is a PartyLite representative which affords her the opportunity to capitalize on her entrepreneurship qualities. In addition, Fabulous Favors is her way of channeling her creativity and further promoting her business expertise. However, she finds the greatest pleasure in spending quality time with her son Shakir and his sister Shenna.

As a parent, educator, active member of a myriad of committees and organizations, Ms. Payne has exhibited her fervent desire to improve the plight of the downtrodden and up lift the spirit of others. The members of the North Jersey Unit NANBPWC, Inc. present the 2001 Professional Woman's Award to Wanda Payne for her untiring commitment and dedication to community service.



Business Woman of the Year

Christine "Roz" Samuels



Christine "Roz" Samuels exemplifies Unionism and Union Solidarity. Her credentials are impressive. She's standing up and being counted. She says it like it is. Roz is a product of the Newark Public Schools, born and raised in Newark's Ironbound section. People always talked about Newark, so I was on a mission to prove them wrong. After high school my parents always told me to do my best and with God on my side I could be and would be a success. Roz attended Drake Business School, NY Broadcasting School, Emily Miles Belle Meade Modeling School, and Ophelia DeVore Modeling School. After modeling for a few years, Roz moved up to the position of Fashion Commentator. She became well known for her voice and her fashion know-how throughout New York and New Jersey. She continues to perform as Mistress of Ceremonies, Wedding Consultant, Fashion Show Coordinator/Commentator and Motivational Speaker. She was Vice President of the Newark Teachers Union for fifteen years. Roz was the first woman to be elected Secretary Treasurer of the Newark Teachers Union in 1995, a three million dollar operation, and continues to hold that position.

Roz gears her energy toward the constant struggle for "human rights", workers' rights, and job equality for all regardless of gender, race, or religious beliefs. She also believes in a day's pay for a day's work. Wherever she has worked she has made herself available to NTU members throughout Newark, New Jersey.

Roz has received numerous awards and recognition for her "unselfish dedication" for the betterment of working conditions for countless men, women and children", and for her involvement with the labor movement and the community. The NJ Union Council, AFL-CIO - 1998, The United Negro College Fund Award from the NJ Labor Advisory Board, District 199J - Hospital Workers, Nation Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Teachers' "Living the Legacy Award", and a Certificate of Appreciation from South 17th Street School Career Day Participation, are just a few of the many awards that has been bestowed upon her in recognition of her dedication and service.

In addition to her job and community activities Roz is active in the following organizations: Vice President of NJ State Federation of Teachers, NJ AFT-CIO, Essex-West Hudson Labor Council, A. Phillip Randolph Institute, The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Newark NAACP The NJ Women's Affirmative Action Committee, The American Federation of Teachers Para Professionals, Montclair Democratic Committee (Correspondence Secretary), Member of Congressman Donald Payne's Committee, National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women, The Labor Advisory Coalition of New Jersey, Newark PTA, Alumni Newark Jr. Leaguers, Elected to the Democratic Nation Committee representing NJ at the Democratic Convention in Los Angeles, California, and many others.

Unionism has always been a part of "Roz's" household. Mr. Gerald Samuels, who is now retired, is a former principal of Broadway Elementary and chief negotiator for C.O.S. (administrators: union). Roz is the mother of Gerald J. who is a Vice Principal at Clifton High School in Clifton, and the recipient of the 1995 Honored Teacher of Excellence Award by the governor of New Jersey, and Alicia Gull - a Tax Examiner for the Collection & Bankruptcy Department at the Internal Revenue Service in Springfield, New Jersey. Roz is also the proud grand-mother of two adorable grandchildren, Christina and Malcom.



VISIONARY COMMUNITY LEADERS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

LAWRENCE HAMM demonstrated strong leadership qualities at an early age. He was appointed to the Newark Board of Education at the age of seventeen, making him the youngest school board member in the United States. While attending Princeton University, he played a major role in the anti-apartheid student movement. After graduation, he came back to Newark and became active in the local, gubernatorial and presidential campaigns including serving as district leader and as president of the 24th District Assembly.

As an entrepreneur, Mr. Hamm founded and directed the People's Energy Cooperation, a four hundred-member fuel oil co-op. As a civil rights activist, he served as Director of the Community Organization Program of the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ, State Chairman of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Rainbow Coalition, Vice Chairman of Rev. Jesse Jackson's 1988 Presidential Campaign in New Jersey, Chairman, People's Organization for Progress; Malcolm X Commemoration Coalition; and Chairman of the New Jersey Million Man March Coalition. He further worked on several projects of special significance for African American as well as speaking out on international issues concerning South Africa and Haiti.



There is no doubt why Lawrence Hamm has been lauded many times for his accomplishments and for his commitment to enhancing the quality of life of others.

CAREY J. HINES, a successful entrepreneur, is the President and Chief Consultant of Dimensional Software systems, Inc. that he founded in 1982. He is the Executive Director of MultiPhase Technology Corporation and consultant to leading technology firms in the country. He has nearly twenty-years of pioneering efforts in the areas of client/server computing, printing technology and software designs.

Mr. Hines many community involvements include President of the 100 Black Men where he has been instrumental in increasing fund raising activities and increasing prostate cancer awareness to thousands of men. He serves on the Council of Trustees for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center; Steering Committee of 10,000 Mentors Rites of Passage Program; organized the first annual Golf Classic for the Hope Chest Scholarship Fund; devoted member of Calvary Baptist Church in Morristown where he chairs many activities. In his community of Parsippany, he is a volunteer member of the Soccer Club, team sponsor, and he coaches basketball in the Police Athletic League.



Mr. Hines is a graduate of the College of the University of Chicago with further studies at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business and New Jersey Institute of Technology. A man with a passion for life and a passion for giving, he shares his dreams with his lovely wife Charlee and two children Christopher and Kirsten.

CRAIG A. STANLEY - ASSEMBLYMAN 28TH DISTRICT was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly on November 7, 1995 to represent the 28th Legislative District in Essex County. He sits on the Assembly Education Committee, the Joint Committee for Public schools and he is a member of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission. Mr. Stanley has distinguished himself in the legislature as a strong advocate of true education reform. He has been a strong voice on behalf of New Jersey's school children and fought for increased state funding. He has also sponsored legislation to increase the minimum wage in NJ and to urge the enactment of a national Senior Citizens' Day. He has served as a member of the Democratic County Committee in Irvington for 14 years, and currently serves as the North Ward Chairman of the Irvington Democratic Committee. In 1998, he was appointed as special assistant to the president of the National Black Caucus of the State Legislators (NBCSL). He is working on an NBCSL Special Task Force on AIDS as well as the NBCSL Education Committee. He serves as coordinator for the Greater Newark/Irvington YMWCA Youth and Government Program and Deacon at the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Newark.



Mr. Stanley graduated from the University of Hartford and received his Masters Degree in Public Administration from Baruch College. He is currently a professor at Essex County College where he teaches American Government. As a "servant of the people", he lives with his lovely wife Debra and three children, Camille, Christina and Cathryn.



VISIONARY ENTREPRENEURS OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Cynthia L. Felton

Cynthia Felton is the founder and President of QEM Enterprises, Inc., a Janitorial and Engineering firm which has 35 employees. In business since 1991, her ultimate goal is to aid in the economic development and empowerment of all people. To minister and assist in providing counseling services, business etiquette, vocational and technical training and jobs for the continued advancement of all people in need.

Ms. Felton is a loving mother of four small children, Jerome, Bryanna, Brandi and Julius. She finds parenting both a blessing and a challenge. She attributes her children's growth and development to raising them under the word of God.

As an ordained Missionary, for Divine Touch Ministries, Inc., under the instruction of Pastor Francine White, her training has led her to travel the corridor of the East Coast on the Mission's Field assisting in the Spiritual development of God's people. Ms. Felton has faced many health challenges which have made her look at life differently. She believes, "Trusting in the Lord with all thy heart and leaning not to her own understanding, in all her ways acknowledging Him. He shall direct her paths". (Proverbs 3:5,6)



Sharon Giles Alexander

Sharon Alexander started her career in education as a fifth and sixth grade teacher for the Newark and East Orange School Systems. However, in 1977 she was persuaded to leave the school system and join her father in the family business as President of E.P.C. International. Currently, she is Vice President of New Day Promotions, Inc., a family owned and operated promotional marketing and consulting company.

Mrs. Alexander's professional affiliations include: New York/New Jersey Minority Purchasing Council MBEC Committee, National Minority Business Council, National Association of Female Executives, Board of Trustees Bennett College, West Essex Chamber of Commerce, Secretary and Board Member of Jack and Jill of America North Jersey Chapter, Member of The Links, Inc. Essex County Chapter, Major Fund raiser for the United Negro College Fund.

Mrs. Alexander has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors. She holds a B.S. degree from Morgan State University and a Ed.M from Rutgers University. She resides in Roseland, New Jersey with her husband, Will, and two teenage sons, Will III and Jayson.



Gloria Bryant

Gloria Bryant founded The Writing Company in 1986, drawing on extensive experience as a top-level public relations executive with the United Negro College Fund (where she worked on the historic "a mind is a terrible thing to waste" campaign), Medgar Evers College, Bell Labs, and the Newark School District, New Jersey's largest, where she served as its first public relations director.

Mrs. Bryant managed the Newark Office of Recycling account that won a 1990 Big Apple Award for Marketing Communications from the New York Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America and the 1994 LEX Award from the Leaders in Environmental Excellence. A short video program produced for the account under direction, "Newark: The Global City," was a finalist in the 1991 Arts & Entertainment Cable Network "CityVideos" competition.

As a former educator and public relations director, Mrs. Bryant has used her talents in formulating Newark's Recycling Rangers program. As an accomplished writer and editor, Mrs. Bryant has set the editorial tone and tailored copy for annual reports, brochures, advertisements, radio spots and newsletters. Under her direction, The Writing Company has worked for such clients as: First Fidelity Bank, Children's Hospital of New Jersey, Jersey Central Power & Light, the City of Newark, the Alliance of Black Telecommunications Employees, Jersey City Public Schools, the Newark Housing Authority, and the New York City Police Foundation.





Visionary Voices of the 21st Century

Belinda Morton Caraballo

Belinda Morton Caraballo has spent more than fifteen years in both commercial and public television, working as a new reporter, anchor, and show host and producer. She is the host of New Jersey Network's award-winning public affairs show Another View, and the urban affairs reporter for NJN News. Prior to joining NJN she worked for Black Entertainment Television in Washington, DC as a news-anchors anchor and health reporter. At BET she co-produced a daily call-in show and numerous specials, including a nationally recognized hour-long documentary on AIDS in the Black Community. The program cosponsored by the Reagan Administration, highlighted the problems associated with AIDS in African American communities in Atlanta, Philadelphia, New Francisco and New York City.

Morton Caraballo also spent several years working as a field producer and researcher for two of the local award-winning magazine shows, Eye on LA and Two on the Town. Her field producing skills won her local recognition for a piece about Parents of Murdered Children.

Her accomplishments in news and public affairs have earned her several Mid-Atlantic Emmy nominations and Associated Press awards. Her commitment to youth, education and community has earned her recognition from organizations nationwide. She's a University of Southern California graduate...born in Richmond Virginia...raised in Harlem, New York.



Anzella King Nelms

Anzella King Nelms is an educator who truly believes that all children can learn. For the past thirty-five years she has been employed by the Newark Public Schools as a teacher, title I Project Coordinator, Associate Superintendent, and Assistant Executive Superintendent. On July 21, 1999 she was named State District Deputy Superintendent of the Newark Public Schools. Prior to this appointment, Mrs. Nelms served from 1995 to 1999 as the Assistant Superintendent of School Leadership Team I. She developed sixteen "Theme Schools" within her School Leadership Team I schools. During 1998-99 school year the U.S. Department of Education named one of these schools, San Street School of Mathematics and Science - a "National Blue Ribbon School." Mrs. Nelms was featured in a Channel 7 documentary entitled, "Takeover". She is also featured as an effective school leader on a New Jersey State Department video entitled, "Working Together - Improving Schools".

Mrs. Nelms is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the National Association of Black School Educators, AASA, and ASCD. She is a member of Trinity and St. Philip's Cathedral in Newark, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Society, Inc. She was appointed by the Essex County Board of Freeholders as a member of the Youth Services Commission, and has served a board member for the Newark Presidential Council. Anzella King Nelms has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors. Mrs. Nelms, however, views the daily recognition from her students, staff and parents as the most significant honor of all, since they are the reason she devotes her life to education. She has a loving and devoted family who supports her in all of her endeavors. She is the wife of the late Walter Nelms, the mother of Eric Nelms of Orange, and grandmother of Eric.



Jeannine LaRue

Jeannine LaRue is the Vice President of the Saint Barnabas Health Care system Government Relations Department, the state's largest health care system. She brings more than three decades of professional experience in education, government, and health care to this position.

Throughout the last thirty years, Jeannine has taught high school English, college writing and public speaking, and has been a news reporter for a daily paper. In 1979, Ms. LaRue became the first woman, the first African-American, and the youngest person elected to public office in Whitaker Township, Camden County. She held public office in that town for twelve years.

During the 80's and 90's, Jeannine was a registered lobbyist for the New Jersey Education Association, the largest public employee union in the State. In 1991, Ms. LaRue left that post when former governor Jim Florio appointed her to serve a five-year term on the NJ Casino Control Commission in 1991. The five-member regulatory body elected Ms. LaRue vice chairwoman of the Commission in 1994.

In 1995, Jeannine's passion for healing the wounds of "women in need" throughout this State prompted her to organize the NJ Women's Summit which attracted more than 550 women and men for a two day conference. The Summit continued for two additional years and has evolved into the Governor's Conference on Women now held on bi-annual basis.

More than thirty community, civic and business groups have recognized Ms. LaRue for her public service achievements. She has served as motivational speaker throughout this country. Jeannine currently sits on several charitable and non-profit boards. She chairs both the State Commission on Schools Board of Trustees and the Martha Chasefield Palmer Charter School.

Ms. LaRue pursued both her undergraduate and graduate studies at Rowan University where she obtained a BA in English Education and completed graduate studies in School/Community Relations. She is the proud mother of three children and grandmother of four.





Scholarship Awards

Sara Miller

Professional Scholarship Award

Sara Miller is a June 2001 graduate of University High School, Newark, NJ graduating with top honors. she was a member of the Future Physicians' Club, Vice President of the National Honor Society, and a member of the Weight Lifting Club. She was selected as an Urban Scholar Who's Who Among American High School Students, a US Achievement Academy-National Science and Mathematics merit Award recipient, and was awarded by Grandmaster Barry Gray for Outstanding Service in the Martial Arts. Sara is currently attending Rutgers University, majoring in Pharmacy, with goals toward earning a Doctorate Degree, opening her own Branch of a Kung Fu School, marrying, and starting a family. Her favorite scripture is, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phillippians 4:13

Valarie Louissant

Business Scholarship Award

Valarie Louissant is a June 2001 graduate of University High School, Newark, NJ, graduating number one in the class. this scholar successfully combined both academics and extracurricular activities which include: UMDNJ Pre-Medical Honors Program, Upward Bound at Steven's Institute of Technology, Future Physicians' Club, National Honor Society, ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, cultural, Technological, Scientific Olympics), where she was a bronze national medalist. She is a volunteer Acolyte at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, representative of the Youth Group, and plays classical music on the piano. Valarie is currently attending Dartmouth University where she keeps in mind what her mother said: "Marry yourself to your education and Never get a divorce. without your education, you will be nobody. Valarie is the daughter of proud parents Berthony and Marie Louissant.

Book Scholarship Awards

Lauren Burke is a June 2001 graduate of Columbia High School Maplewood, Nee Jersey, where she ranked in the top 15% of a very competitive class, as well as maintaining a high academic average, participated in sports, and earned honors placement in nineteen courses. She enjoys creative writing and poetry. Lauren is presently attending the University of Virginia, majoring in Psychology.

Modupeola Okeowo was class Salutatorian of the 2001 June graduating class of Malcolm S. Shabazz High School, Newark, New Jersey. Modupeola reigns from Surulere, Nigeria and distinguished herself as a noteworthy scholar, a member of the National Honor Society, a Edward J. Boustein Distinguished Scholar, and a W.E.B. DuBois talented Tenth Scholar. Modupeola is attending Howard University focusing on her goal of becoming a surgeon. Her household consists of more that twelve people, with many family members attending college and everyone working to help the mother make ends meet.

Cherise Tidd is a June 2001 graduate of Arts High School, Newark, New Jersey. Cherise is a member of the National Honor Society, sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, the Tri-M Music Honor Society, Arts High Symphonic Orchestra, and a member of Agents of Change Youth Ministry. Cherise is currently majoring in Biology at Spelman College. She plans to return to her community one day and help those who helped her and hopefully inspire others to always follow their dreams.